

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CSCE, GE, GW, AU

SUBJECT: GDR COUNTERATTACK ON BORDER ISSUE

REF: BERLIN 1229 (NOTAL)

1. GDR CONTINUED CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY NORMALITY OF EAST GERMAN BORDER CONTROLS WITH ARTICLES IN JULY 25 AND 26 NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND), JULY 25 ITEM PURSUED THEME OF PREMEDIATED FRG PROVOCATIONS AGAINST GDR BORDERS BY PUBLISHING SECOND EXAGGERATED EAST GERMAN PROTEST CONCERNING ANOTHER FRG PRIVATE AIRCRAFT WHICH STRAYED OVER GDR (BERLIN 1207 REPORTED ON FIRST INCIDENT).

2. SECOND ITEM, IN JULY 26 ND EDITORIAL COLUMN, USED MEDIUM OF AUSTRIAN COMMUNIST "VOLKSSTIMME" EDITORIAL TO DEVELOP FURTHER CONCEPT THAT ALL STATES STRINGETLY CONTROL BORDERS.

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ACCORDING TO VOLKSSTIMME, BAVARIAN BORDER PATROL RECENTLY SHOT AT THREE MEN--ALBANIAN, CROAT AND SLOVENE-- WHO HAD

ESCAPED FROM AUSTRIAN REFUGEE CAMP AND WERE ATTEMPTING TO CROSS INTO FRG. REFUGEES ALLEGEDLY THEN TURNED BACK AND WERE APPREHENDED BY AUSTRIAN GENDARMES. VOLKSSTIMME NOTED THAT IT IS FORBIDDEN THROUGHOUT EUROPE TO CROSS BORDERS ILLEGALLY (SCHWARZ), BUT IF THESE SHOTS HAD OCCURRED AT AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN, AT AUSTRIAN-CZECHOSLOVAK OR ESPECIALLY AT "BERLIN DDR-WESTBERLIN" BORDER, (WESTERN) NEWSPAPER WOULD HAVE DENOUNCED IN BLOCK LETTERS "INHUMANITY" OF SOCIALIST "MURDER BORDERS" AND (WESTERN) FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LET LOOSE STINGING (GEHARNISCHT) PROTEST. AS POSSIBLE INDICATION OF COMMUNIST RECOGNITION THAT GDR'S NEWLY-ACQUIRED INTERNATIONAL RESPECTABILITY IS BEING TARNISHED BY CONTINUATION OF BORDER AND WALL KILLINGS, VOLKSSTIMME WENT ON THAT "ONE CAN BY ALL MEANS HAVE THE OPINION THERE SHOULD BE NO SHOOTINGS AT BODERS", HOWEVER, "SHOOTINGS AT SCHAERDING (AUSTRIAN-FRG BORDER) MUST BE PROTESTED JUST AS MUCH AS THOSE AT OTHER BORDERS." "INHUMANITY" ACCORDING TO VOLKSTIMME, CANNOT JUST BE COVER FOR ANTICOMMUNISM.

3. COMMENT. NO CITATION OF VOLKSSTIMME ONE MORE INDICATIONS THAT GDR, AND PRESUMABLY REST OF WARSAW PACT, IS PREPARING CHALLENGE TO EXPECTED WESTERN ATTACKS ON COMMUNIST POLICIES AT CSCI II. IN THIS CONNECTION, GDR HAS MADE FURTHER USE OF ARGUMENT OVER DETAILS OF LATEST BERLIN WALL INCIDENT (BERLIN 1260). TO OBFUSCATE REAL ISSUE THAT WALL ITSELF, AS WELL AS SHOOT-TO-KILL ORDERS, ARE INCONSISTENT WITH FREE MOVEMENT. ACCORDING TO JULY 25 "TAGESSPIEGEL", ADN PROVIDED THIS WEST BERLIN NEWSPAPER WITH ALLEGED NVA MAP AND REPORT PURPORTING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT RELEASED WOULD-BE ESCAPEE GOMERT MADE HIS ATTEMPT AT TIME (ABOUT MIDNIGHT JULY 19/20) WEST BERLIN POLICE THOUGHT THEY SAW LIFELESS BODY. BORG

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